



STATE SENATOR
BRUCE PATTERSON
IN THE LOOP ★

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Phone Records Bill Now The Law

The Governor signed Senate Bill 1202, sponsored by Senator Patterson, into law on June 30. The law, now, Public Act 246 of 2006, would prevent would prohibit anyone from knowingly obtaining or selling (or attempting to do so) a confidential telephone record without the prior authorization of the customer,

Bills To Rejuvenate Michigan's Agriculture Industry Sent To Governor

A package of bills that will make renewable fuels widely available and revitalize Michigan's agriculture industry has been sent to the governor, said bill sponsor Sen. Bruce Patterson, 7th District.

"This legislation is good news for our economy, consumers and the environment," said Patterson, chairman of the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy. "Michigan can be the national leader in the development, production and use of renewable and alternative fuels, and this package will help us achieve that goal by making these alternatives available at more locations around the state."

The legislation is designed to help spur growth in Michigan's agriculture industry and promote and encourage use of E85, a fuel blend that is 85 percent ethanol, and B5, a 5 percent blend of biodiesel. Ethanol is a clean-burning, high-octane fuel primarily produced from corn kernels. Biodiesel is a cleaner-burning diesel fuel made from natural renewable sources such as soybean oil.

Senate Bill 1078, sponsored by Patterson, will create 10 new renaissance zones in Michigan to be used specifically for manufacturing alternative energy. This will increase the supply of E85 for Michigan business and industry.

"My bill provides wonderful incentives for producers and consumers," Patterson said. "It breaks new ground in providing Michigan an environmentally healthy, cost-effective answer to our fuel problem while boosting our agriculture economy."

The renewable fuel package also will:

- Provide a motor-fuel tax cut on the purchase of renewable fuels. The tax break gives seven cents off the 19-cent motor fuel tax on E85 or three cents off the 15-cent motor fuel tax on B5;
- Set strict quality-control standards for biodiesel and hydrogen fuels, and require diesel fuel testing in Michigan; and
- Require the state to install a fueling infrastructure at the Lansing state fleet garage and require all state flex fuel vehicles to fill up with E85 and diesel vehicles to use a biodiesel blend.

Although GM and Ford are heavily investing in the production of E85 vehicles, there are only four pumps dispensing the fuel in Michigan, while Minnesota has 198 pumps and Illinois has 104 pumps statewide.

Budget Deal Reached

Legislative leaders and the Governor have reached a compromise on the 2006-2007 budget. Legislators are expected to act in July to pass legislation to implement the budget deal.

Economic Development To Be Topic Of Upcoming Meeting

Senator Patterson will be sponsoring a meeting on July 17 to discuss economic development opportunities in Michigan.

For more information, contact the office at the numbers listed below or look at future editions for more information.

Trenton Hosting Mid-Summer Festival

The event will be held this weekend in downtown Trenton. Visit <http://www.trentonmid-summer.com/> for more information! If you would like to have your event highlighted in *IN THE LOOP*, please contact the office via the information below.

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via e-mail, please contact my office at < senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov >. You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you!

See the *Legislative Questionnaire* on the Website, too! Your responses are welcomed!
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